



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

USDA/NASS
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 17, 2006
Week Ending: April 16, 2006
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Cool, Wet Weather Delays Fieldwork Fruit Blooming Lags

Field Crops

The rain increased across the state this week lowering the number of days suitable for fieldwork. Winter wheat conditions were fair to excellent, with plenty of moisture, but the wheat could use some sunshine. Shellfish growers initiated seed planting of oysters and clams and continued harvesting. Fruit is in good condition. However, fruit blooming, including apples, raspberries, strawberries and cherries are lagging behind due to cool weather. Some orchardists began applying frost protection and asparagus harvest continues.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions declined to 2% poor, 39% fair, 57% good, and 2% excellent. The decline in conditions was due to the excessive moisture and cold weather. Spring calving and lambing continued. Pastures continued to green up but were still too wet to use. Ranchers were supplemental feeding as hay stocks continued to decline.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	3.5
Last Week	4.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	0	72	28
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	2	15	76	7
Subsoil	3	10	78	9
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	3	10	78	4
Irrigation Water	0	0	97	3
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	2	10	88	0
Hay & Roughage	18	31	47	4

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	45	39	88	71
Spring Wheat Emerged	28	19	44	33
Barley Planted	30	28	57	52
Barley Emerged	15	11	26	22
Potatoes Planted	45	30	60	40
Potatoes Emerged	3	2	8	10
Corn Planted	5	NA	8	15
Dry Edible Beans Planted	13	8	11	10
Proc. Green Peas Planted	45	35	58	42
Dry Peas Planted	19	17	27	28

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	4	20	59	15
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	6	92	2

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Clallam/Jefferson: Temperatures were below normal, especially at night. Port Angeles had 60 degree temperatures and Sequim had a low of 39 degrees.

Clark: Wet weather abounds throughout southwestern Washington.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: If April showers bring May flowers, there should be no shortage of flowers in May. In spite of the showers, farmers made some progress in getting underway with spring tillage operations. Some green chop was also taken. Most spring activities will be sporadic until the ground dries out more and temperatures get back to normal.

Mason: The warm weather disappeared, leaving early planted crops somewhat stagnant. Plenty of precipitation made irrigation a distant memory. Perennial plants seemed to be doing well. Freezing temperatures on Sunday night may cause some losses for producers who moved tender annuals outside to harden before transplanting. Greenhouse crops were in full swing. Livestock were enjoying spring pastures.

Mason (2nd Report): Late in the week 1.6 inches of rain fell, as a cold front came through with high winds and heavy rain. Pastures were soggy. Cattle producers kept a close watch on calving cows, as the weather made it difficult for newborns.

Pacific: Continued cold, wet weather severely limited field operations, with initial soil preparation delayed for many producers. Cranberry growers continued early season weed control activities and finished pruning operations. Pasture conditions for livestock producers continued to

improve with springtime weather. Shellfish growers initiated seed planting of oysters and clams and continued harvest operations. Oyster prices remained high due to reductions in harvest in the Gulf of Mexico and hurricane Katrina.

Pierce/S. King: Crop conditions remained about the same as the last report. Some fields were still too wet to work. There were no reports of any unusual situations or crop damage due to a weather event.

San Juan: Temperatures were cold. One inch of rain fell during the week. Pastures were behind in growth.

Skagit/San Juan/Island: Rain was received during most of the week. Very little fieldwork took place. Most of the beet fields were planted, and potatoes were being planted. There were no reports of crop damage.

Snohomish/N. King: Conditions were cool and wet during the week. Pastures were growing well. Stone fruit was in full bloom, and blueberries were beginning. Apple blossoming was slow due to the cool weather. Raspberries and strawberries were also lagging behind.

Snohomish/N. King (2nd Report): The rainfall caught up with and surpassed the average for the month. Farmers continued to work in fields. Temperatures were below normal for this time of the year.

Whatcom: Four days of rain and showers hampered fieldwork. There were no unusual conditions or situations to report.

Central

Chelan: The weather was cooler and wetter than normal, which slowed the development of tree fruit blossoms and caused some fruit set concerns. Cherries approached full bloom, pears will begin blooming next week, and apples full bloom is predicted to occur at low elevations in the northern half of central Washington in the first few days of May—which is three to four days later than normal. Pre-bloom spraying was the major work during the week.

Douglas/Chelan: Temperatures were cool and some freezing occurred. Rain, snow, and hail were all received during the week. Snow mold on the winter wheat crop may require some producers to reseed. Soft fruit crops were in bloom. Livestock producers began to run out of hay due to the long winter. Spring pastures were not ready for grazing due to the wet spring and cool temperatures.

Grant: Morning temperatures over the past few days were below freezing. More rain was received over the weekend.

Potato planting was in full swing. Irrigation season was underway.

Kittitas: More moisture and continued cool temperatures near freezing were received at night. However, grasses were growing in earnest and trees were leafing up quickly. With a few days of warmer temperatures and sunshine things will really be rolling.

Okanogan/Ferry: With recent low temperatures orchardists started using frost protection. Ranchers still had cattle on feed, but some were in need of hay as cold spring temperatures were not allowing sufficient growth of spring forage.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from 7 degrees below normal to 9 degrees above normal, with 0.02 of an inch of precipitation. No crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat conditions continued to improve as moisture remained adequate. Spring cereal seeding was nearly complete.

Adams (2nd Report): Another showery week continued to add small amounts to precipitation totals. Grain crops and pastures looked very good. Hay could use a few more growing days to get going.

Asotin/Garfield: Continued wet weather delayed spring planting in most areas. The wet conditions also prevented spraying of winter wheat and other spring fieldwork.

Franklin: Alfalfa was 6-10 inches tall. The weather was cool and rainy. Bees were active in orchards. Asparagus harvest was in full swing.

Franklin (2nd Report): Consistent rain was received over the weekend. Precipitation for the month of April was well above normal. The dryland country was well saturated and the consistent rains were extremely beneficial to the winter and spring wheat crops, as well as fall seeded CRP grasses. Range conditions were very green, and the annual and perennial grasses had the best growth that producers have seen in years. Potatoes and green peas continued to be planted. Fruit trees and grape plants looked good. Asparagus was in its first full week of harvest throughout the county.

Garfield: Winter wheat was in good condition. Producers were still waiting for spring wheat.

Lincoln: Winter wheat conditions continued to improve as moisture conditions remained adequate. Spring cereal seeding was extremely slow as cooler temperatures and precipitation continued to limit days in the fields.

Pend Oreille: Temperatures had a high of 56 degrees and a low of 26 degrees with 1.5 inches of precipitation. Established hay fields were showing new growth. Fields were being worked, either plowed for new planting or harrowed for established pastures and fields. The ground was not warm enough to plant or germinate new seeds. Poultry were laying and livestock were losing their winter coats. Cattle were being fed hay as pastures still did not have sufficient grass to maintain them. Lambing was all but over, and calving was still in full swing.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: It was another typical week with rain, snow and some sunshine. Producers were able to do harrowing in the southern end of Spokane County one day, but rain halted fieldwork for the rest of the week. The wheat and weeds were growing well. Applications of fertilizer were done by air because fields were too wet to get into. Some growers were stressed about not having enough time to get spring crops planted.

Stevens: Some pastures had 6 inches of growth during the week. Cattle were turned out on April 12.

Stevens (2nd Report): Rain fell nearly continuously during the week. The weekend saw a return to cold temperatures with lows in the twenties. The soil profile was saturated and very little fieldwork was accomplished. Area streams and rivers were running high and muddy with flooding in some areas.

Walla Walla: On and off rain made it difficult for fieldwork. Spring seeding and spring grass growth was behind normal, but with warmer temperatures and sunshine, the grass should begin growing better. Most ranchers still have hay left for their livestock, but hay for sale was very scarce.

Walla Walla (2nd Report): The county received about 2 inches of precipitation during the week. Fall crops looked very good. Producers were spraying and planting spring crops as weather permitted. Area pastures appeared to be in good condition. There were reports of pea sized hail in the Dayton area on April 15.

Whitman: Rain, snow, wind and general inclement weather put a damper on farming activities. Farmers were anxious to begin spring fieldwork. A few days without rain will allow farmers to begin working in the fields. In many areas, night time temperatures were at freezing or below.

Whitman (2nd Report): More rain prevented the completion of any significant amount of fieldwork. Winter wheat looked good but sunshine would help. Heavy winter and spring precipitation made it necessary for additional fertilizer.

Weekly Weather Statistics

April 17, 2006

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	35	58	47	-1	1	-6	0	0	1.05	0.42	6	28.08	-0.07	100	132
Everett	37	56	46	-3	0	-7	0	0	0.62	-0.02	6	26.69	-1.48	95	134
Hoquiam	38	58	47	-2	1	-9	0	0	1.94	0.86	7	64.95	6.95	112	153
Kelso	39	64	49	2	10	-3	0	0	0.64	-0.18	6	36.67	-1.34	96	128
Olympia	35	62	47	-1	0	-7	0	0	1.09	0.29	5	47.81	4.40	110	132
Sea-Tac	38	60	48	-2	3	-5	0	0	0.97	0.41	5	32.02	0.89	103	127
Shelton	35	61	46	-3	0	-14	0	0	1.45	0.46	5	64.95	8.00	114	138
Tacoma	34	59	46	-3	0	-8	0	0	1.14	0.46	5	35.60	2.45	107	120
Vancouver	39	65	51	3	17	4	0	0	1.37	0.72	5	37.56	3.47	110	126
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	28	61	47	0	2	-5	0	0	0.55	0.41	4	9.92	2.97	143	71
Stampede Pass	26	51	37	5	0	0	0	0	1.19	-0.01	4	61.70	-7.23	90	135
Wenatchee	30	63	48	-3	5	-13	0	0	0.11	-0.05	1	5.37	-0.89	86	50
Yakima AP	30	68	49	0	11	-3	0	0	0.02	-0.12	1	8.14	1.89	130	60
NORTHEAST															
Colville	30	57	45	0	0	-7	0	0	0.88	0.53	7	15.25	0.53	104	82
Deer Park	29	59	44	-1	0	-7	0	0	0.66	0.36	6	22.92	9.54	171	102
Spokane AP	32	58	45	-1	0	-7	0	0	0.51	0.24	6	14.95	3.07	126	94
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	26	63	47	-3	6	-13	0	0	0.19	0.08	4	8.25	2.75	150	63
Moses Lake	30	66	48	-3	8	-11	0	0	0.13	0.02	3	9.50	4.00	173	72
Quincy	31	66	48	-3	10	-7	0	0	0.04	-0.10	3	9.65	3.67	161	74
Ritzville	29	62	45	-2	1	-6	0	0	0.40	0.19	4	12.75	4.21	149	83
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	34	70	51	-4	15	-18	0	-4	0.24	0.15	3	4.59	-0.54	89	40
Pasco	32	71	53	0	30	0	0	-2	0.46	0.39	3	7.60	1.83	132	63
Pullman	33	56	45	1	1	-6	0	0	0.84	0.49	5	9.69	-6.07	61	86
Whitman Miss.	31	66	51	2	21	2	0	-4	0.83	0.55	6	14.08	3.93	139	97
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	30	59	45	-3	3	-4	0	0	0.37	-0.03	4	8.54	-10.39	45	72
Lewiston ID	38	63	51	1	19	-2	0	-1	0.86	0.58	6	8.04	0.18	102	71

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2005

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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